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August 23, 2002
TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
DOCKET ROOM

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Sara Kyle, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Re: *Generic Docket Addressing Rural Universal Service*
Docket No. 00-00523

Dear Chairman Kyle:

BellSouth filed its motion for reconsideration on July 25, 2002 in the above-referenced docket, seeking reconsideration or clarification of the hearing officer's order of June 28, 2002. On August 16, 2002, the Independent Companies filed a reply brief in which these companies urged BellSouth to withdraw its motion for reconsideration and expressed a willingness to negotiate all issues associated with interconnection.

Since these filings, the parties have discussed a plan for further negotiations to find a mutually acceptable resolution to their dispute. In order to facilitate this negotiation, BellSouth requests that the Authority enter an order holding the Petition for Reconsideration in abeyance for a period of 60 days. During that 60-day period, the parties will work to resolve their dispute. Counsel for the Rural Coalition has no objection to this request. At the conclusion of 60 days, the parties will report to the TRA regarding their progress.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Howorth, Jr.

CLH/jej

cc: The Honorable Ron Jones, Hearing Officer

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 23, 2002, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

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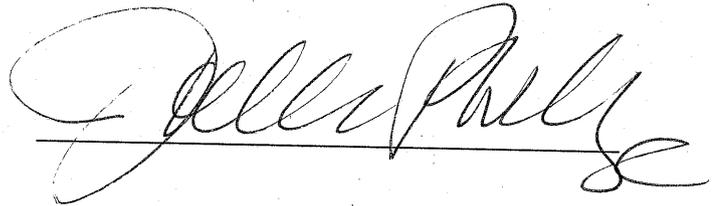
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Timothy Phillips", is written over a horizontal line.